- Provide for Urdu text books for Urdu medium schools and also for those teaching Urdu as a subject.
- KGBVs have been sanctioned in 427 blocks with Muslim population above 20%;
- KGBV guidelines provide for two Urdu teachers, if there is a demand for Urdu as a medium of instruction in those schools.

Class X examination as an option

1909. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to make class X examination optional;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several State Governments have resented the move; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The National Curriculum Framework – 2005 has recommended that the Board should consider, as a long term measure, making the Class-X Examination optional, thus permitting students continuing in the same school (and who do not need a Board Certificate) to take an internal school examination instead. A proposal to make the Class-X Examination optional for students continuing in the same school, for schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), is under consideration. However, there is no such proposal as far as State Examination Boards are concerned.

Literacy improvement in the country

1910. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of illiterate people throughout the country at present, Age-wise and State-wise;

(b) the statistics pertaining to SC/ST/OBC/Women as regards literacy;

(c) whether according to the World Education Report 2005, of the 771 million adult illiterates in the world, 262 million are Indians; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to improve literacy scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Based on the decennial Census 2001, a statement indicating the number and percentage of illiterate people SC, ST and women is enclosed (*See* below). The data for OBC has not been estimated during Census 2001.

(c) As per UNESCO's Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2006, the number of illiterates in the population aged 15+ was estimated to be 771 million in the world out of which 267 million are in India.

(d) The steps taken to improve the literacy scenario in the country include:

(i) Renewed focus on low literacy areas of the country with special emphasis on female, SC, ST and minorities.

(ii) Enhanced budget allocation for adult education for Eleventh Plan.

(iii) Significant enhancement in access and quality of elementary education which would reduce the influx into the pool of adult illiterate population.

Statement

Age-wise and State-wise, number and percentage of illiterate people, SC, ST and Women

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Number/Percentage of illiterates in 7+age group (as per census 2001)			
		Persons	Women	SC	ST
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,61,03,827	1,62,08,523	49,32,224	26,19,983
		39.53	49.57%	46.48%	62.96%
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4,07,312	2,35,485	1,660	2,85,786
		45.66%	56.47%	32.36%	50.38%
3.	Assam	81,42,099	48,42,875	5,09,489	10,33,026
		36.75%	45.39%	33.22%	37.48%
4.	Bihar	3,50,82,869	2,11,36,155	72,38,716	4,33,272
		53.00%	66.88%	71.53%	71.83%
5.	Chhattisgarh	61,05,738	41,43,328	7,14,902	25,99,576
		35.34%	48.15%	36.04%	47.91%
6.	Goa	2,16,138	1,45,260	5,876	210
		17.99%	24.63%	28.08%	44.12%
7.	Gujarat	1,33,10,863	87,58,707	8,99,411	32,22,009
		30.86%	42.20%	29.50%	52.26%
8.	Haryana	57,15,350	36,65,261	15,00,813	—
		32.09%	44.27%	44.55%	

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12,43,142	8,52,014	3,81,998	72,796
		23.52%	32.58%	29.69%	34.50%
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	38,50,611	23,15,707	2,67,597	5,64,160
		44.48%	57.00%	40.97%	62.54%
11.	Jharkhand	1,02,11,801	64,95,657	15,85,341	34,12,302
		46.44%	61.13%	62.44%	59.33%
12.	Karnataka	1,52,33,500	96,86,751	34,21,059	15,12,548
		33.36%	43.13%	47.13%	51.73%
13.	Kerala	25,62,540	12,82,555	4,78,714	1,12,042
		9.14%	12.28%	17.34%	35.65%
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1,79,73,246	1,17,81,715	30,68,812	56,54,112
		36.26%	49.71%	41.43%	58.84%
15.	Maharashtra	1,92,41,558	1,31,72,357	23,64,790	31,51,424
		23.12%	32.97%	28.10%	44.79%
16.	Manipur	5,47,669	3,63,183	14,193	2,17,603
		29.47%	39.47%	27.68%	34.15%
17.	Meghalaya	6,92,968	3,68,368	4,080	6,09,171
		37.44%	40.39%	43.73%	38.66%
18.	Mizoram	83,394	47,566	27	74,675
		11.20%	13.25%	10.80	10.66%
19.	Nagaland	5,68,035	3,08,619	—	5,15,743
		33.41%	38.54%		34.05%
20.	Orissa	1,16,08,795	76,85,110	22,85,985	42,03,733
		36.92%	49.49%	44.47%	62.63%
21.	Punjab	64,30,200	36,51,249	26,01,896	—
		30.35%	36.64%	43.78%	
22.	Rajasthan	1,81,54,176	1,23,60,938	36,77,413	30,73,429
		39.59%	56.15%	47.76%	55.34%
23.	Sikkim	1,44,321	84,739	8,435	31,405
		31.19%	39.60%	36.96%	32.86%

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	1,46,45,974	97,80,343	37,92,303	3,25,122
		26.55%	35.57%	36.81%	58.47%
25.	Tripura	7,40,658	4,71,142	1,21,961	3,61,522
		26.81%	35.09%	25.32%	43.52%
26.	Uttarakhand	20,23,535	14,19,435	4,52,312	78,472
		28.38%	40.37%	36.60%	36.77%
27.	Uttar Pradesh	5,88,54,009	3,66,99,086	1,49,97,337	54,530
		43.73%	57.78%	53.73%	64.87%
28.	West Bengal	2,15,65,574	1,33,76,195	64,17,675	20,77,219
		31.36%	40.39%	40.96%	56.60%
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	58,236	34,980	—	8,514
	Islands	18.70%	24.76%		33.21%
30.	Chandigarh	1,41,777	80,189	42,804	—
		18.06%	23.53%	32.34%	
31.	Dadra and N Haveli	76,387	47,178	748	63,707
		42.37%	59.77%	21.75%	58.76%
32.	Daman and Diu	30,026	19,191	618	4,389
		21.82%	34.39%	14.87%	36.58%
33.	Delhi	21,68,894	13,42,125	5,72,116	
		18.33%	25.29%	29.15%	
34.	Lakshadweep	6,876	4,897	—	6,712
		13.34%	19.53%		13.86%
35.	Pondicherry	1,60,819	1,12,181	42,015	—
		18.76%	26.10%	30.88%	
	TOTAL	30,41,02,917	19,34,79,064	6,24,03,320	3,63,79,192
		35.16%	46.33%	45.31%	52.90%

PIL for regulation of Deemed Universities

1911. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) plea seeking regulation of Deemed Universities in the Apex Court in 2006 is still pending for final verdict;